

CONCLUSION



The Advanced Transportation Systems (ATS) Program provides the foundation for ATS efforts in California. The ATS Program Plan has been developed to give Caltrans' partners and other interested parties a broad overview of the program and partner roles. It outlines program goals and objectives in light of Caltrans' mission, and its vision of a balanced, reliable, safe, environmentally efficient, and integrated inter-modal transportation system, and the steps Caltrans will take to develop the program technologically and institutionally. This program relies on both governmental action and market forces and will require extensive cooperation on the part of the state, its political subdivisions and private industry to realize Caltrans' 15-year ATS deployment vision.

Achieving the ATS vision will lead to societal benefits including:

- Improved mobility through better use of the transportation infrastructure;
- Enhanced public transportation and commercial vehicle fleet operations;
- Access to reliable, real-time transportation information and to traveler services;
- Higher levels of safety for both urban and rural areas;
- More attention, and, therefore, more products and services designed to address the specific and unique needs of the elderly, and physically and developmentally challenged;
- Better environmental energy efficiency of transportation systems;
- Improved economic productivity; and,
- Defense conversion leading to an increased job market.

Major public and private sector investments have already been made in ATS and will increase in the coming years. An effective way of managing and leveraging these investments is crucial to the success of the program. This document is designed to be used as a tool to manage research, development, testing and deployment of the products and services outlined in the preceding chapters. The ATS Program Plan is essential if we are to spend resources wisely, speed the achievement of ATS benefits, and assure acceptable standards and uniformity across regional, state and even national boundaries.

The proposed program is based on required activities, increases in state support for the program, the availability of federal ISTEA funding and a reasonable degree of public/private cost-sharing by California's ATS partners. It is designed to move California's ATS program forward in an orderly and cost-effective manner. It is consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the draft National Program Plan released by USDOT in June 1994.

Caltrans has identified an ambitious set of milestones to be attained over the next five years. It is critical that the momentum for ATS progress be maintained.

In summary, the Caltrans ATS Program calls for:

- Funding to allow for an aggressive market approach to ATS;
- Forging strong public and private partnerships;
- Cooperative ATS multiyear research, development and operational test projects leading to the 15-year deployment;
- Continuing evaluation of ATS projects to determine if any program/project revisions are necessary to meet user needs;
- Systems modeling and compatibility planning;
- Developing cooperative systems architecture;
- Using building block deployment strategies;
- Standards setting;
- Resolution of legal and institutional issues; and,
- Support for private sector commercialization.

Unprecedented levels of cooperation and partnerships are being accomplished to promote the continued development and growth of ATS technologies. Partnerships are being formed between many governmental organizations and between the public and private sectors. Caltrans will continue to work closely with its partners in both the private and public sectors to advance a balanced and effective program.

